

Dear FCC Commissioners:

Self-Help for the Elderly urges the Commission to approve SBC Pacific Bell's 271 application to enter the long distance market in California. They were recently approved by the CPUC. It's been 5 years since SBC has filed for entry into the Long Distance market and during this time, the entire telecommunications industry has changed drastically. Many regions in the country are already open to full competition except California which is the 6th largest economy in the world. By not allowing SBC in the long distance market, the rates and services consumers want could not be provided.

Self-Help for the Elderly serves over 25,000 Asian seniors in the San Francisco Bay Area and our seniors want to do business with companies they can trust and who have proven to be sensitive to their language and cultural needs.

We also believe that increasing competition for long distance will result in lower rates for our seniors. Many of our seniors have families in the Far East and they rely on long distance calls to keep in touch with them. We need to further lower the rates for long distance calls to make them affordable for seniors who are on fixed income.

We also advocate for more consumer choices and greater access to technology to make lives easier and better for our seniors. Our seniors also depend on companies who can provide them with multilingual services to prevent being slammed and crammed.

Our last point is to urge FCC to preserve Universal Service which benefits many low income consumers. SBC is the leader in the industry in advocating for Universal Service.

We urge FCC to approve SBC's 271 application and allow them to compete with other long distance carriers in the very near future.

Thank you.

Anni Chung
President and CEO of Self-Help for the Elderly